

House Resolution No. 1911

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens; and

Whereas, Paul Gutting is the owner and operator of the Wild Eye Ranch, in southwest Missouri, off of Highway HH just north of Highway 76 West, just west of Reeds Spring; and

Whereas, the Wild Eye Ranch is the host of the Wilderness Road Festival, which features Ozark Mountain music and storytelling, to be held from June 1 through June 3, 2007, and the Festival is sponsored by the Wilderness Road of the Ozarks Association, Inc., a not-for-profit historical corporation; and

Whereas, the Wilderness Road of the Ozarks was planned and started just before 1860, but it was finally constructed immediately after the Civil War by returning war veterans, under the direction of Joseph A. Philibert and W.W. Kimberling, two of the Mid-Ozarks' first permanent settlers; and

Whereas, the Wilderness Road of the Ozarks existed prior to that time, first as old game paths used for thousands of years, and then well used by Indians, hunters, and trappers as main trails, typically "ridge-runner" routes, routes that followed the best and easiest ways; and

Whereas, the historic Wilderness Road is still there, still the principal routes of the Mid-Ozarks, after over one hundred fifty years, and it lies beneath or near many of the paved highways driven today by those visiting or working in our Ozarks; and

Whereas, the mission of the annual Wilderness Road Festival is to preserve, promote and celebrate the heritage of the Mid-Ozarks, and the advancement of the area's legacy will be achieved through family-oriented, heritage-related activities at venues along the Wilderness Road:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to commend Paul Gutting and the Wild Eye Ranch for the generous and selfless support they give to the Wilderness Road Historical Festival in Stone County, Missouri; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Paul Gutting and the Wild Eye Ranch.

Offered by _____
Representative Dennis Wood
District No. 62

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 1911, adopted April 16, 2007.

Rod Jetton, Speaker